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QUESTION OF THE REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT

Written statement submitted by Christian Democratic International, a non-governmental organization in consultative status (Category I)

The Secretary-General has received the following communication, which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

[1 February 1990]

Development, the Right of Peoples

1. Development should be seen as the betterment "of all men and the whole of man" through an individual and social process of complete liberation and humanization. Understood in that way, it is a fundamental goal towards which man strives.

2. Since it concerns "the whole of man", the concept of development is dependent on the concept of man. For Christian Democrats, the key factor is to recognize that a person has the various dimensions and the dignity which Christian humanism and contemporary anthropology attribute to him with regard to his freedom and his social and historical responsibility. Consequently, development cannot be limited to a purely economic interpretation, whether capitalist or Marxist. It should refer to man's material, social and cultural needs but not be confined to them.

3. As it concerns the betterment "of all men", development seeks to meet human needs and encourages the potential of individuals and communities to flourish, wherever men are to be found. This implies the need to promote equality among men, from which it also follows that the most underprivileged people should be given top priority.

4. Similarly, all goods exist to meet the needs of men. The fulfilment of this social function should not be restricted by unfair distribution caused by legal or institutional methods and it constitutes, so to speak, an "eminent" ownership of all goods by mankind.

5. To achieve development in as short a time and at least economic and social cost as possible is a right of peoples. For this reason, Christian Democrats consider development a moral imperative. Moreover, it is vital for peace between peoples and among each people. The prolonged obstruction of the process is a form of tyranny with all its relevant consequences.

6. Development is a political commitment, a collective, deliberate commitment on the part of peoples and Governments. It implies, therefore, that targets should be set and suitable methods used. This does not mean that partial objectives cannot be entrusted to spontaneous balances of forces. In particular, competition and the market can relieve political authorities of a large number of economic decisions which they might find it difficult to take effectively, and, at the same time, allow the active involvement of businesses and citizens. In the same way, the balance of social forces - and, to some extent, the confrontation between them where organizations representing workers and other comparatively disadvantaged social groups each express their members' aspirations - can permit progress towards justice and a situation where needs are satisfied with the active involvement of the population. Nevertheless, it is not certain that such spontaneous balances can achieve harmonious and fair development by themselves. Consequently, they should be used as a means and, as far as the actual situation in a country makes it possible, may help to reach the targets which have been set. However, this does not mean that politicians should not be held responsibile for the results. It is therefore the duty of Governments to define their own sphere of activities and take steps to direct the process whenever that seems necessary.

7. Democratic planning of economic and social development can now be a valid means both to achieve a coherent set of changes when needed and to direct the process in an orderly fashion, if satisfactory conditions do not spontaneously arise. In any event, democratic planning is only a technical instrument which should be put to the service of the political authorities; consequently, it cannot be a purely technical and bureaucratic mechanism without broad participation.

8. As a political act, development should be democratic, that is to say it should be characterized by the free, responsible participation of all. This should be evident in two areas:

(a) The process should be led and directed from above and the responsibility for achieving a coherent plan and overcoming any problems which arise should be assumed by a State, which should be essentially, and not just formally, democratic: in other words, it should be the real active mouthpiece

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of the people. This function cannot be usurped either by autocratic Governments, whether they represent the interests of dominant groups or depend on a foreign country, or by private, national or transnational power bases.

(b) The people's participation in the development effort cannot be limited to its labour, but should involve fair access to consumer and capital goods, decision-making and the fruits of development, either for individuals or through political parties, trade unions, social organizations or grass-roots communities.

9. It is unquestionably a moral right and duty to carry out redistribution at the international level for the aforementioned purposes. Countries should firstly acknowledge their responsibility both to provide increasingly effective technical co-operation and to transfer technology and finance to disadvantaged countries. Here again, however, it is more important to have correct structures than to attempt a posteriori to rectify the effects of inappropriate structures. It is necessary to revise the system of trade, the international division of labour and the pattern of world investment in such a way as to favour fairer development.

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QUESTION OF THE REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT

Written statement submitted by the Christian Democratic International, a non-governmental organization in consultative status (category I)

The Secretary-General has received the following communication, which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

[1 February 1990]

Proposal for the establishment of a "Latin American Debt Agency"

1. The Christian Democratic International has always given priority attention to the urgent problem of the external debt which burdens a considerable number of developing countries.

2. One contribution to the search for consistent and feasible solutions was the recent resolution of the Latin American Christian Democrats, which reads as follows:

"The Twelfth Congress of the Christian Democratic Organization of Latin America (ODCA), meeting at Bogotá, Colombia, from 4 to 6 November 1989,

Aware of the serious situation caused in Latin America by the impoverishment of the population and the increase in unemployment, which is resulting in a significant decrease in per capita income,

Aware that this situation is threatening social and political stability, weakening the continent's democratization processes,

Considering that the negotiations that have been or are currently being conducted do not ensure a final solution to the debt problem but represent inadequate and transitional agreements that make further negotiations necessary and in the meantime create a state of frustration and uncertainty which is affecting the economic and social climate,

Considering that the situation in the Latin American countries obviously makes it impossible for them to pay back the debt under the terms proposed by the creditors, as illustrated by the low quotations for the debt in the secondary market,

Considering that the external debt is not just a financial problem but an economic one in general, and basically a political and moral one, since responsibility is shared by the debtor countries, the creditor banks and the Governments of their respective countries and the multinational finance agencies,

Considering that among the factors contributing to this joint responsibility are not only customs barriers, unfavourable terms of trade and negative capital transfers, but also the high interest rates that are set in the international market by the industrialized countries, for reasons of domestic policy,

Considering the need to join forces and to agree on an essential minimum of guidelines for negotiations on the external debt and on the minimum conditions for ensuring equality and justice in the treatment of the debtor countries, and

Aware that such a combined effort and approach is also necessary in order to strengthen and increase much-needed faith in Latin American solidarity,

Decided:

1. To promote, encourage and support the establishment of an International Latin American Debt Management Authority, made up of representatives of the international creditor banks, the Governments of their respective countries, the Governments of the debtor countries and the international financing bodies, whose main objective would be to find a fair and equitable solution to the debt problem;

2. At the same time, and while the International Authority is being set up, to propose that the Latin American countries should strengthen, broaden and intensify their efforts to ensure that Latin American Governments embark on a policy of "concerted and consistent action" in the current negotiations on their foreign debt, so that, even though the

countries maintain their sovereign right to negotiate bilaterally, they do so while accepting a flexible framework of minimum commitments that will give unity of action in the negotiations and offer each country a greater chance of obtaining fair and equitable treatment without negatively affecting the other debtor countries;

3. To propose that a Latin American Debt Agency should be established to inform Governments, legislatures, political parties, the media and public opinion in the creditor countries in general and make them aware of the true nature and consequences of the external debt, the urgent nature of the problem and its need for priority attention. The agency would also have the aim of centralizing information on the negotiations, advising Governments at their request and studying and investigating alternative proposals for a solution, both to the debt problem and to problems in other related fields of the economy".

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QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

Written statement submitted by the International Federation of Human Rights, a non-governmental organization in consultative status (category II)

The Secretary-General has received the following communication which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

[1 February 1990]

GUATEMALA

1. In the fourth year of President Vinicio Cerezo's term in office, from January to 20 November, the Guatemala Human Rights Commission registered 433 victims of extrajudicial executions, the most affected places being Guatemala City (71), and the departments of San Marcos (33), Solola (10), El Peten (14), El Quiche (17), Escuintla (21), and Suchitepéquez (21). Also registered were 121 cases of detained-disappeared people in the departments of San Marcos (23), Escuintla (14), Guatemala City (13), Suchitepequez (10), Solola (9), El Quiche (4) and El Peten (1).

2. All social sectors have been affected. We mention the following cases: Silivia Maria Azurdia Utrera and Victor Hugo Rodriquez Jaramillo, Carlos Leonel Chutá, Enrique Cabrera, Mario López Palencia, university students, some of them active members or ex-members of the Executive Co-ordination of the

Association of University Students (AEU), all detained-disappeared and later executed; the following people continue disappeared: Mario Arturo de Léon, Ivan Ernesto González (Union and Popular Unity Action delegate to the National Dialogue), Aarón Ochoa, Hugo Gramajo and Carlos Contreras Conde. On 9 December, the corpse of another leader of AEU, Marco Tulio Montenegro Alvarado was found near the bridge "El Incienso" on the outskirts of the capital city, presenting signs of torture and a bayonet wound. Montenegro had left the country on account of the assassination and disappearance of his fellow companions. He had come back to Guatemala for family reasons, after President Cerezo (according to information given by Victor Hugo Godoy, a congressman), had called him and had told him there were no problems.

3. Human rights organizations have been attacked, such as the Mutual Support Group (GAM), which suffered the disappearance of Maria Romualda Camey and persecution that drove her family into exile; Unions like the Union of the Workers of the National Electricity Institute (STINDE), who suffered the execution of leaders such as José León de la Cruz. Likewise, dozens of agricultural workers and various catechists, indigenous women and peasant leaders have been executed or disappeared, many of them after having received death threats against them. Danilo Barillas, who pushed a movement of ideological renovation within the Christian Democrat Party, was executed. These crimes continue unpunished to date.

4. During this period, the Guatemala Human Rights Commission registered 121 cases of people detained-disappeared, whose bodies were dumped later in public in broad daylight, with signs of cruel torture. The police operatives of SIPROCI - the System of Civilian Protection - are unable to capture the people who transport and dump bodies in the street. After August, the increase of the repression was notorious. As will be remembered, in June an important teachers' strike burst onto the scene, which little by little won the support of many popular organizations and, at one moment, embraced almost the entire country. Acting in a similar way as previous governments had acted, the civilian government responded with the definite denial of all the teachers' petitions and coercion through diverse means, legal and outright.

5. When the social mobilization was at a critical point, a series of deeds occurred in Guatemala City: explosives were placed in the GAM and Peace Brigades offices, and in other public places; anonymous telephone calls announced the placing of bombs in crowded buildings; indiscriminate shots were fired at groups of people waiting for public transportation; and the incineration of five alcoholics (one of whom later died) by the so-called "Anti-vagabond, anti-alcoholic command". All this created a climate of terror among the population, in the midst of which the executions, disappeareances and threats against the popular sector were multiplied.

6. The press, political analysts, popular organizations, the private sector and the hierarchy of the Catholic Church have all concurred, with just motive, that, especially since August, the country has been living through insecurity and fear comparable to the situation that existed during the Governments of Generals Romeo Lucas García and Efrain Rios Montt.

7. In the countryside, the situation is also very serious, particularly in the areas of armed conflict, where the civilian population continues being hounded by the Army. Up to November 1989, we have registered 15 collective

extrajudicial executions (massacres), with a total of 64 victims, in different parts of the country, meanwhile the appearance of tortured corpses is increasing along the country's highways, with the consequent terrorizing of the defenceless population, who are at the mercy of the security forces.

8. Only the security forces have the human and material resources and the technical capacity needed to plan and execute these deeds with complete impunity. Therefore, the situation of the last months of 1989 is a product of state terrorism that continues in spite of Army and Government assurances that a state of law exists in Guatemala.

9. Thus, extrajudicial execution (the application of the death penalty without previous judgement) and forced or involuntary disappearances continue, under the civilian Government, as one of the many forms applied historically in Guatemala to demobilize the people and to frustrate their economic and social demands.

10. Further still, deeds such as the extrajudicial execution of Danilo Barillas and of the university students, the disappearance of base members of humanitarian organizations and the intent to burn alive street beggars who couldn't be political opponents, intends not only to physically eliminate people, but also to send a clear message to the population: everyone, independent of their social class, profession or occupation, sex or age, be they politically active or not, a member of a popular organization or not, can at any moment be the victim of extrajudicial execution or of forced or involuntary disappearance.

11. This was clearly corroborated by the Secretary of the Army's Public Relations, Colonel Luis Arturo Isaacs Rodriguez, when he expressed to a group of unionists that came to the armed institution to denounce the insecure situation in which they found themselves, that "In Guatemala, we all run risks". This statement justifies any attempt, any killing, any disappearance whoever the victim may be, distorting the objective that the Constitution entrusts to the Forces of State Security.

12. As in other times, the Government spokespeople attribute the killings and the wave of terror to extremists, blaming the deeds that occurred in Guatemala City primarily on people such as the renowned anti-communist, Lionel Sisniega Otero, who now, supposedly, is a fugitive of the law. Some analysts have offered the hypothesis that he agreed to be the fall guy in exchange for certain favours that the army did for him.

13. The security forces - as in the past - are corrupt, as rather than complying with their constitutional mandate (protection of the population and combating delinquency - in the case of the police - and defending the nation's sovereignty - in the army's case), they dedicate themselves fundamentally to violating the Guatemalan population's human rights, through their clandestine repressive apparatus, which operates under the direction of the military intelligence (D-2).

14. This situation guarantees not only the lack of defence of the population, but also impunity for the human rights violators. Confronted by the effectiveness of the clandestine repressive apparatus, the judicial system is completely ineffective; as an example, the President of the Supreme Court himself, Doctor Edmundo Vàsquez Martínez, said to a delegation in 1988, that

he advised families of disappeared people not to present writs of habeas corpus because to do that probably accelerated the death of the victims, affirming that the only way to see these people alive again was to have close contacts with the army.

15. While commenting upon the ineffectiveness of writs of habeas corpus, he implied that he himself "is stopped at the doors of the jails", or rather, stopped and searched before he is allowed to enter, although he has the writs of habeas corpus and his legal position as guarantees of his authority. Taking this one step further, we consider that although a judge could enter a jail to search for a disappeared person, he will not find that person because the disappeared are carried off to clandestine jails which can be in the basement of a military base, in a private home, on a ranch, in any place. Recent testimonies, among them that of the Ursuline sister Diana Mack Ortiz, herself temporarily detained-disappeared, confirm the existence of these clandestine jails.

16. The events of 1989 have shown that the expectations generated by the civilian Government, in the sense that there would be some respect for the right to life, have been disappointed. The extrajudicial executions, the forced or involuntary disappearances, the threats and the intimidations continue being an essential part of the counterinsurgent project that prevails in the country.

17. The enormous investment that the United Nations has made to aid the Guatemalan Government in the subject of human rights has not produced the hoped for results. Due to this, we consider that the international community must bring more pressure upon the civil and military authorities of the country to respect human rights, bringing the case of Guatemala to point 13 of the agenda of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and naming a Special Rapporteur that objectively examines the situation, bringing the necessary recommendations to the Guatemalan Government and to all the States genuinely interested in the human rights situation. The high social cost that the Guatemalan population is paying demands this type of action.

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QUESTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL PERSONS SUBJECTED TO ANY FORM OF DETENTION OR IMPRISONMENT

Written statement submitted by the International Federation of Human Rights, a non-governmental organization in consultative status (category II)

The Secretary-General has received the following communication, which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

[1 February 1990]

I. Mexico: torture, illegal detention and enforced disappearances

1. In Mexico, despite some efforts in the Federal District, torture continues to be the favourite method of investigation of the police. Torture is not limited to political cases but is routinely practised on all prisoners.

A clear illustration of the behaviour of the Mexican police was the recent murder of the journalist Elvira Marcelo Esquivel in the early morning of 24 December 1989. A group of policemen attacked the young woman and two friends of hers; she died of a gunshot wound in the head. The policemen, instead of reporting to their superiors, fled to continue their spree and had to be found through inquiries.

2. This case has received a lot of publicity since journalists were involved, but attacks against citizens by policemen are very common events and range from the standard "putting the bite on" someone (extortion) through actual assaults with varying degrees of violence and even murder. All this is worsening in the states of the Republic and even more so in the countryside.

3. For example, at about 9 a.m. on 3 October 1989, members of the 47th infantry battalion, detached in the city of Pinotepa Nacional, appeared in the community of La Victoria, Santa Cruz Itundujia, where, with violence and threats, weapons in hand, they entered the homes of some peasants. When they reached the town hall, they detained Mr. Tomás Sanchez García. Later they went to the home of Mr. Gabriel Sanchez Pena and detained him together with his sons Fidel and Conrado Sanchez García, following which they detained Mr. Ignacio Sanchez Jose and Mr. Luis Sanchez Jose, whom they later took to the outskirts of the town to torture them and accuse them of various offences which they had never committed, such as murder and marijuana-growing.

4. The International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH) has reason to believe that these offences were planned in advance by the Yenis Group (Specialized Community Forest Development Unit), whose members have for several years been carrying out acts of repression against peasants attempting to defend the property of their people. Such was the case of these gentlemen, who, simply because they were defending community forests, were brutally tortured and brought before the Public Prosecutor in Puerto Escondido, who sent them to the State penitentiary where they are currently imprisoned.

On 16 October 1989, Mr. Rodrigo Sanchez García was killed by gunmen while working in a field, and his father, Gabriel Sanchez, and his brothers were detained.

5. As for detention in Mexico, a high percentage of detentions in the country take place without the required warrant. It should be added that most of the time detention is carried out in a violent way. The deadline for bringing the detainee before the competent judge (72 hours) is generally not respected, and in the interim the detainee is subjected to physical and psychological pressure.

6. In the countryside, the usual pattern is detention without a warrant followed by solitary confinement. Blows, violence and incarceration as a result of false accusations, especially if a struggle for land is involved, are common.

7. Murders for the reason mentioned above are also frequent. Clashes do occur between peasants embroiled in land disputes, but usually the persons who carry out the murders, which are at times veritable massacres, are the caciques - land-accumulators with political power - their gunmen and groups belonging to the National Peasants' Federation (CNC), a division of the official party (PRI).

8. The currently used method is temporary "disappearance": for example, that of the peasants Rodrigo Hernández and Elías Baltasar Sánchez Hernández, detained by the Judicial Police of the state of Veracruz in Huistipán, Ilamatlán township, Veracruz, on 24 August. Despite efforts nothing more was

heard of them until 12 September, when they appeared at the prison in Tuxpan, Veracruz, displaying the after-effects of torture. Persons who have been tortured are frequently not presented until the signs of the torture have disappeared.

9. The army participates in repression linked to civilian matters. In previous years there have been complaints of "disappearances", torture and assassinations committed by the army. In particular, the Federal Judicial Police, which is responsible for the campaign against drugs, uses that pretext to commit serious abuses.

10. Nevertheless we do acknowledge that the Office of the Government Attorney for the Federal District is making efforts to change the situation. Among other measures, units are being established to receive citizens' complaints against the police. Unfortunately this branch is not the only one working in the police sector; no changes have been observed in the Office of the Attorney-General of the Republic, the Office of Highway Safety, the Federal Traffic Police or the police units in the rest of the Republic.

II. Peru: torture and enforced disappearances

11. On 6 November 1989, 10 workers from the mining centre in La Oroya were detained and illegally imprisoned in the barracks at Marcavalle la Oroya: Edgar Bujaico, Martín Mucha Aliaga, Edgar Julián Mauricio, Abdón Acuña Asto, Oscar Pariona Clemente, Santos Apolinario Núñez, Celestino Villena Blas, Braulio Zegarra García, Félix Quispe Balbín and Juan Ancasi Damián.

12. Because of the rapid mobilization by leaders of the National Federation of Miners and Metalworkers, they were able to meet the victims and verify that they had been subjected to serious torture, which in many cases made it necessary to hospitalize them.

13. One worker, Celestino Villena, was interviewed by the leaders of the Federation in the hospital at El Carmen, where he was being treated for burns sustained as a result of applications of electric current to various parts of his body and for bruises from blows received.

14. This worker and others confirmed that they were tortured at the Marcavalle barracks by members of the army, before being taken to Huancayo.

15. According to a report by the Defence Secretary of the FNTMMSP, Alfredo Aquino, detainees in the Marcavalle barracks were held "without being fed; occasionally they were thrown fruit rinds, which they had to eat since they were starving. They were sometimes able to get water through a leak in the roof from which they took turns drinking. They were also hung up with their arms tied, while being kicked and punched, and stripped and lowered head first into a vat filled with water."

16. The persons most seriously affected by the torture were the workers Juan Anccasi, whose left wrist was broken and who has burns and bruises all over his body; Braulio Zegarra, whose hands became infected due to serious wounds from electric shocks; and Celestino Villena, who had to be hospitalized for drainage of blood that had accumulated in his right lung.

17. Although the workers were released on 28 November 1989, the miner Mucha Aliaqa, of Centromin-Morococha, was detained in the CRAS in Huamancaca, Huancayo, under criminal charges.

18. In Peru, 400 complaints of disappearance were recorded in 1989 and 297 cases are pending. In a high percentage of these cases, the agents who carried out the detention were members of the armed forces and the police who were wearing their respective uniforms and identified themselves as such. The entry of the victims into illegal detention centres, such as football stadiums occupied by the armed forces or military barracks, has even been confirmed by the authorities themselves or by eye witnesses. But it was later denied that the prisoners had been there and stated that they had been released or that they had "fled". What is certain is that those persons never reappeared.

19. One example of this practice was the detention and subsequent disappearance of 16 villagers from Río Frío, district of Aucayacu, Department of Huánuco, between 20 and 26 June 1989, after a military patrol had beaten them, blindfolded them, tied them up and taken them to the military barracks at Aucayacu.

20. The persons involved were Nelson Salgado Evangelista, a shopkeeper aged 36, Eduardo Espinoza Cotrina, a worker (17), Jerry Dávila Tarazona, a farmer (21), Segundo Abraham Lozano Panduro, a farmer (21), Justiniano Segundo Caballero Izuiz, a farmer (31), Florentino Chávez Cornello, a worker (30), Bartolomé Damián Mauricio, a worker (28), Aanoret Vásquez Vargas, a farmer (17, a minor), Gil Ronal Leandro Páucar (31), Milo Almandoz Leandro Páucar, a farmer (24), Jorge Luis Galloso Velásquez, a worker (24), Juan de Dios Atachahua Garay (39), Primitivo Espinoza Barrios (36), Libio Egoavil Saavedra (21), Félix Laurencio Ubaldo (47) and Asanova Vásquez Vargas (17, a minor).

21. On 26 June 1989, an unspecified number of detainees from Río Frío were loaded by the army into three helicopters bound for an unknown destination. Since then their whereabouts have been unknown. However, information received by the relatives of Nelson Salgado Evangelista gives an idea of their probable fate.

22. Salgado Evangelista and one of his brothers were detained in the community mentioned above by 20 heavily armed soldiers who burst into his home. His wife immediately went to the military barracks to inquire into her husband's situation but was told that he had not been brought there. His lawyer was also unable to gain entry to the barracks. However, from the day of detention through 26 June, the army received food brought for Salgado Evangelista by his relatives. The detainee even managed to send his wife a handwritten note telling her that he was being held prisoner together with others in a small, unventilated cell in which they felt that they were suffocating. He also told her that he was accused of being a "terrorist" for reasons unknown to him and confirmed that he had never been involved with any political group whatsoever. He said his wife should not lose hope and that he was sure that he would be released, since he was innocent. But on 26 June, Salgado Evangelista and other prisoners were taken off in a helicopter never to return.

23. When Salgado Evangelista's wife insisted on knowing where the helicopter had gone, a soldier told her to forget him, since people who were taken off in helicopters never returned. They were killed and their bodies dropped from the sky.

III. Syria

24. In Syria, where the state of emergency was declared on 8 March 1963 and is still in force, virtually all persons detained by virtue of the emergency legislation have still not been taken to court, whereas some arrests were made several years ago. Contact with lawyers and families is refused. Torture is constant and extremely brutal. The FIDH has received the following testimony:

> "I was detained in gaol for two years, firstly in different sections of the Military Security, and then in four prisons successively. I heard for the first time about children in gaol when a member of the Military Security entered the prison kitchen to ask the cook to put more sugar in the meal of a woman who couldn't give milk to her new-born baby and to whom the director of the prison was refusing to give milk brought from outside the prison. During the following days, I have the chance, while going out from the common toilets, to get rid of my mask and to see a two-year-old child wearing a mask and whose hands were attached. Later on, I found out that he was the youngest of a seven-children family whose eldest was at the maximum 11 years old. Their mother had been isolated and the children put in a 2-square-metres cell. As I discovered later, these children were going to the toilets and ate with a mask and their hands being attached. I will never forget their crying, shouting and calling for their mother, especially at night ...".

25. The FIDH also knows about the situation of 8 to 12-year-old children in the prison of Damascus, often being tortured as a means of pressure on families, and about born-in-gaol children receiving inhuman treatment. Furthermore, all the detainees trying to take care of the children, such as a teacher explaining reading to a little boy recently, are sanctioned, by being placed in solitary confinement or tortured. The FIDH asks the Commission to react to these flagrant and systematic violations of human rights and especially of children's rights.